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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A <u>colloidal ruthenic acid compound containing a ruthenic acid</u>
<u>nanosheet, said</u> ruthenic acid nanosheet having a thickness of not more than 1 nm, represented by
the formula (1):

$$[RuO_{2+0.5x}]^{x}$$
, wherein 0

wherein said ruthenic acid nanosheet is in the form of separated particles.

- 2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Currently amended) A layered ruthenic acid <u>intercalation</u> compound comprising a layered structure of the ruthenic acid nanosheets in accordance with claim 1 <u>and</u> alkylammonium,

said layered ruthenic acid compound having an X-ray diffraction peak intensity at a (00L) plane (L = 1 to n when $0 \le \theta(CuK\alpha) \le 90^{\circ}$, n is determined depending on a basal interplanar spacing and $5 \le n \le 35$).

- 4-5. (Cancelled)
- 6. (Original) An electrochemical device having an electrode comprising the ruthenic acid nanosheet in accordance with claim 1.
- 7. (Currently amended) A method of producing a ruthenic acid nanosheet comprising the steps of:

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- (a) mixing ruthenium oxide and an alkali metal compound and sintering or melting the resulting mixture to obtain a layered alkali metal-ruthenate compound containing a ruthenic acid nanosheet having a thickness of not more than 1 nm;
- (b) treating said layered alkali metal-ruthenate compound in an acidic solution to exchange at least part of alkali metal with proton to obtain a protonic layered ruthenic acid hydrate;
- (c) reacting said protonic layered ruthenic acid hydrate with alkylammonium or alkylamine to obtain a layered alkylammonium-ruthenic acid intercalation compound; and
- (d) mixing said layered alkylammonium-ruthenic acid intercalation compound with a solvent to obtain a colloid containing a ruthenic acid nanosheet having a thickness of not more than 1 nm in the form of separated particles.
- 8. (Original) A method of producing the ruthenic acid nanosheet in accordance with claim 7, wherein ruthenium oxide and alkali metal salt are mixed and the resulting mixture is sintered at 700-900 °C in the step (a).
- 9. (Original) A method of producing the ruthenic acid nanosheet in accordance with claim 7, wherein ruthenium oxide and alkali metal hydroxide are mixed and the resulting mixture is melted at 500-700 °C in the step (a).
- 10. (Original) A method of producing the ruthenic acid nanosheet in accordance with claim 7, wherein said protonic layered ruthenic acid hydrate is reacted with alkylammonium represented by $(R)_mNH_{4-m}$ or $(R)_{m-p}(R')_pNH_{4-m}$ (where R and R' are $CH_3(CH_2)_q$, respectively, m = 0 to 4, p = 0 to 3 and q = 0 to 18) in the step (c).

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11. (Original) A method of producing the ruthenic acid nanosheet in accordance with claim 7, wherein said protonic layered ruthenic acid hydrate is reacted with alkylamine represented by $(R)_mNH_{3-m}$ or $(R)_{m-p}(R')_pNH_{3-m}$ (where R and R' are $CH_3(CH_2)_q$, respectively, m = 0 to 3, p = 0 to 2 and q = 0 to 18) in the step (c).

12. (Original) A method of producing the ruthenic acid nanosheet in accordance with claim 7, wherein said layered alkylammonium-ruthenic acid intercalation compound is mixed with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of water, alcohol, acetonitrile, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylformamide and propylene carbonate to obtain a colloid in the step (d).

13. (Cancelled)